

PCT

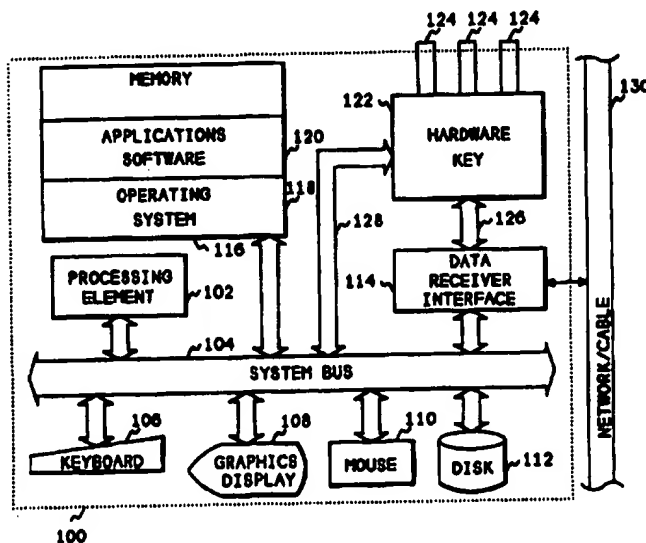
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| (21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/11416<br>(22) International Filing Date: 8 July 1996 (08.07.96)<br>(30) Priority Data: 08/504,117 19 July 1995 (19.07.95) US<br>(71) Applicant: CABLE TELEVISION LABORATORIES, INC. [US/US]; 400 Centennial Parkway, Louisville, CO 80027 (US).<br>(72) Inventors: WILLIAMS, Thomas, H.; 6423 Fairways Drive, Longmont, CO 80503 (US). BAGGETT, Claude, T.; 962 Alder Way, Longmont, CO 80503 (US).<br>(74) Agent: YOUNG, James, R.; Suite 385, 12000 N. Washington Street, Denver, CO 80241 (US). |  |    | (81) Designated States: CA, GB.<br><br>Published<br><i>With international search report.<br/>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i><br><br>(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 03 April 1997 (03.04.97) |

(54) Title: METHOD FOR PROTECTING PUBLICLY DISTRIBUTED SOFTWARE



(57) Abstract

A system for protecting software from copying wherein the software to be protected is placed on the computer system in two parts. A first part (120) is stored in non-volatile storage, such as a hard disk or floppy disk within the computer system (100), and a second part is stored and executed in a "hardware key (122)", which is attached to the computer system (100). The second part is stored in volatile RAM (206) and will be erased when electrical power is removed from the hardware key (122), or when the software stops execution. This requires that the second part of the software be reloaded each time the hardware key (122) is powered up. Typically, the second part of the software will be loaded from a network (130), or from a cable network, thus reloading of the second part into the hardware key (122) is a trivial matter, so long as the user is an active subscriber to the network (130) or cable network.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US96/11416**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(6) : H04L 9/32

US CL : 380/ 25

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 380/ 25, 4

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                  | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| X         | US, A, 5,083,309 (BEYSSON) 21 January 1992, see column 2, line 44 through column 3, line 29; column 3, lines 57-61. | 1-10                  |
| A         | US, A, 5,379,342 (ARNOLD ET AL) 03 January 1995, see column 4, lines 28-59.   | 1, 10                 |
| A         | US, A, 5,212,729 (SCHAFFER) 18 May 1993, see column 3, lines 10-31.   | 1, 10                 |
| A         | US, A, 4,959,861 (HOWLETTE) 25 September 1990, see column 2, lines 20-40.   | 1, 10                 |
| A         | US, A, 4,944,008 (PIOSENKA ET AL) 24 July 1990, see column 2, lines 45-66.  | 1, 10                 |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

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